Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Since 1945, October of each year has been designated National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign; and,

Whereas, The purpose of this month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities; and,

Whereas, We cannot afford, morally or financially, to lose the contributions people with disabilities bring, not only to the workplace, but also to mainstream community life as an irreplaceable resource for our state and nation; and,

Whereas, This year's theme **"My disability is one part of who I am"** encapsulates the important message that people with disabilities are just that – people – and like all people, we are the sum of many parts, including work experiences; and,

Whereas, We need to connect employers with employees who have disabilities because it makes good business sense for the employer, and we need to start today; and,

Whereas, Our goal is to make South Dakota an "employment-first state" with our government committing itself to making employment the first priority and the preferred outcome for citizens with disabilities; and,

Whereas, This year's theme of **"My disability is one part of who I am"** supports these goals and conveys that advancing disability employment is about much more than just hiring – it is about creating a continuum of inclusion:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 2015 as

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I call on all citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to advance its important message that people with disabilities are equal to the task throughout the year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixteenth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State